

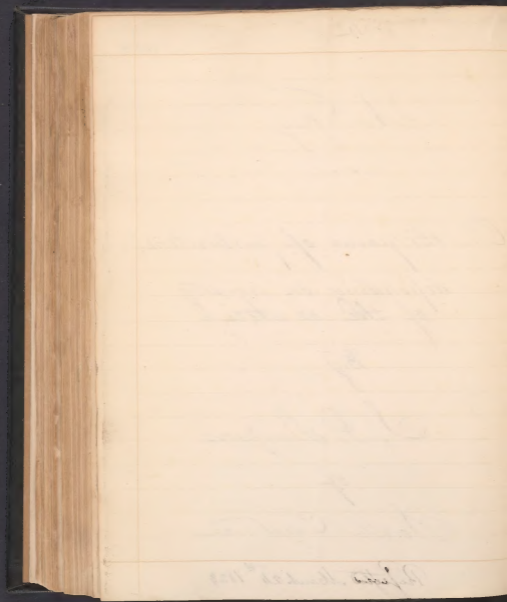
An Essay

On the pains of parturition,
depending on rigidity
of the os uteri.

By

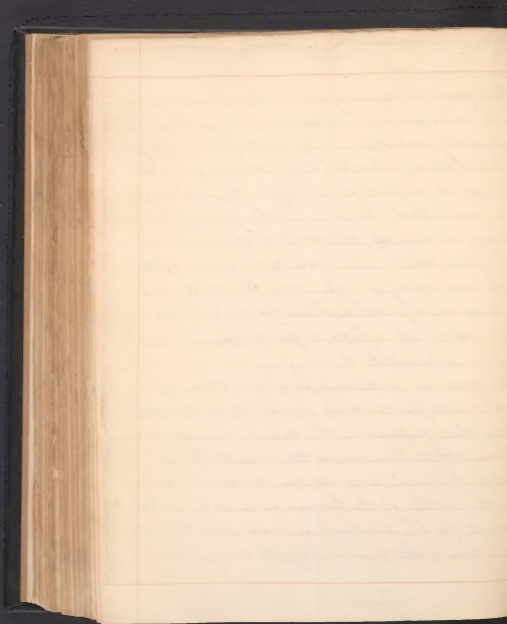
S. P. Simpson
of
South Carolina

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That pain is necessarily connected with parturition, is an opinion, which has been pretty generally entertained by writers on midwifery. Doctor Osborn, observes, that, "woman is necessarily exposed to great pain, difficulty, and danger in parturition." And in another part of his essays, he observes, that, "it is the intention of nature that labour should be a slow, deliberate, and painful operation. Doctor Denman, who is not less distinguished for his abilities, says, that, "it is natural for woman to have slow and painful labour. —

This opinion of the necessary connection of pain with parturition, appears to be founded, upon that passage in the sacred writings which declares that "in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children", and which was announced to the mother of the human race, as a punishment for her disobedience; and upon the very position of the human body. It having been



supported necessity, that nature should have framed
such a structure of parts as would counteract the
effect of gravity, and prevent premature labours,
and though these ends are obtained, yet the
means she has employed create those obstacles
which impede delivery, and are unavoidably
the cause of the excruciating pains which
the unhappy sufferer is compelled to endure.

That labour is frequently a tedious and painful
operation will not be denied; but that pain
should be a necessary consequence of the form
of the human body, or that the Supreme
Being should have enjoined it as a course upon
the female sex, appears so derogatory to the idea we
have of his goodness and wisdom, that we cannot
admit it. That a woman may bring forth in
snow, and yet not be subjected to much bodily
pain, may very readily be conceived.

When she reflects on the dangers attending on
the puerperal state, the slow and difficult

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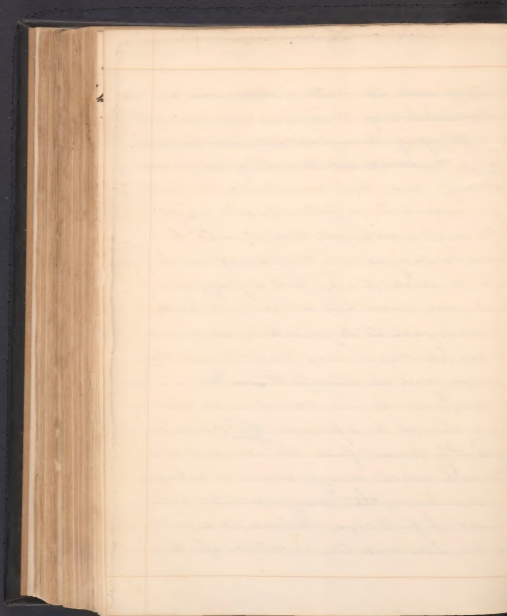
an. XVI "A woman that is in Travail has sorrow because her

20 "time is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the
"child she remembereth no more her anguish for joy
"that a man child is born into the world."

recovery, of some, the death of others; when she
considers that half of the human race do not
attain the age of seven years; that hardly, a
half of the remainder arrive to years of
maturity, and that even should the spirit
of her woman be so fortunate, as to escape
death in its youth, yet that it will be
exposed to danger and temptation, in the
world, to which it may fall a prey, and
which may render life a burden to itself,
and a reproach to its parents: under circum-
stances like these, it may truly be said, that
in sorrow does she bring forth. —

But that is not the intention of nature that
labour should be a painful operation, is
sufficiently evident from the ease and faci-
lity with which many women are deliv-
ered. Every one knows that many women are safely
delivered of full sized children, so supple
that they have scarce time to call for assistance.

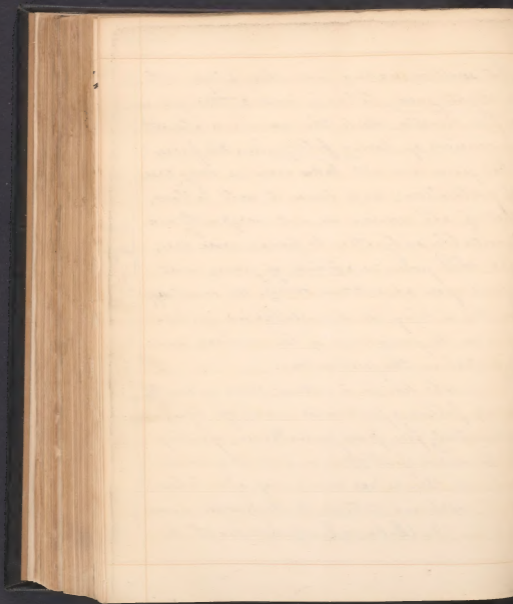
Improbable.



that sometimes, waking from their sleep with
a slight pain, labour is hurried through in
a few minutes, while the woman is almost
unconscious of having felt pain. This proves
that pain does not ~~take~~ occur in every case
of parturition; and hence it will follow,
that if all women are not necessarily and
inevitably subjected to pain, none are;
but, that pain, or absence of pain, must
depend upon adventitious causes. We cannot suppose
that a being who has established general
laws for the government of the universe would
be partial in this particular.

Women who live in a certain state of society,
or who follow a particular mode of life,
are entirely free from pain. Bruce, speaking
of the women of Abyssinia, says, they do not
confine themselves over a day after labour,
but wash and return to their work imme-
diately. In Dobson's Encyclopedia it is

Non
Segni



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This statement is given of the new
policy of education, especially among the
people of the nation of the American kind
that it should be a national education
that it should be all that is proposed in
the new policy, that it should be all that



[illegible]



[illegible]





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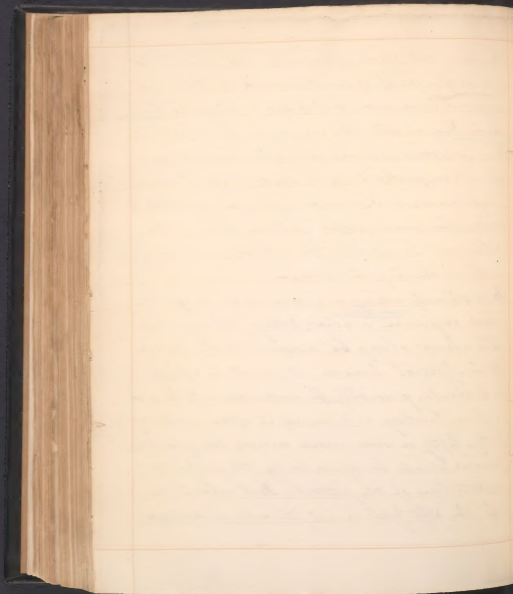
1861

The first of the year was a
very cold one, and the
frost was very severe.
The snow was very deep,
and the wind was very
strong. The weather was
very disagreeable, and
the people were very
suffering. The crops were
very much damaged, and
the people were very
poor. The weather was
very bad, and the people
were very suffering.
The crops were very much
damaged, and the people
were very poor. The
weather was very bad,
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The warm bath stands upon pretty much the same footing as opium: it is sometimes serviceable, but it is dangerous in as much as it is apt to bring on hemorrhage. There are also other very strong objections to it. It is uncertain, almost always inconvenient, and sometimes, particularly in the country, it can not be procured; it is, moreover, almost impossible to render the woman proper opistoma when in the bath, not to mention the extreme indelicacy, with which it is attended. —

But the only remedy on which we can rely with much confidence is blood letting; this of itself will almost always be adequate to the purpose, to be effectual, however, it must be copious, and should, generally, be continued until sickness or fainting is induced; it often requiring forty, fifty or even more ounces; the quantity, however, should be regulated by the pulse and constitution of the patient. But relaxation of the soft parts is not the only advantage



derived from blood-letting. By the use of the
remedy, we prevent all those accidents which
have been enumerated as arising from rigidity
of the soft parts. It facilitates the delivery of
the placenta, by preventing spasmodic contraction
of the uterus. It prevents, after pains puerperal
fever and mania. In puerperal pers-
tensions, blood-letting, by removing the
spasmodic action of the uterus, and relaxing
the parts, very much facilitates the intro-
duction of the hand, and delivery of the
child —

I cannot depart from this university without acknow-
ledging my obligations to its medical professors.
To them all I now offer my very sincere thanks.
That the university of Pennsylvania may long
continue to flourish, is the fervent wish of one
whose study and ambition it shall ever be to
carry into effect the excellent, and he believes the
first principle of medicine he has imbibed in it.

Doct. James